HOW TO TALK TO STRANGERS ON THE INTERNET

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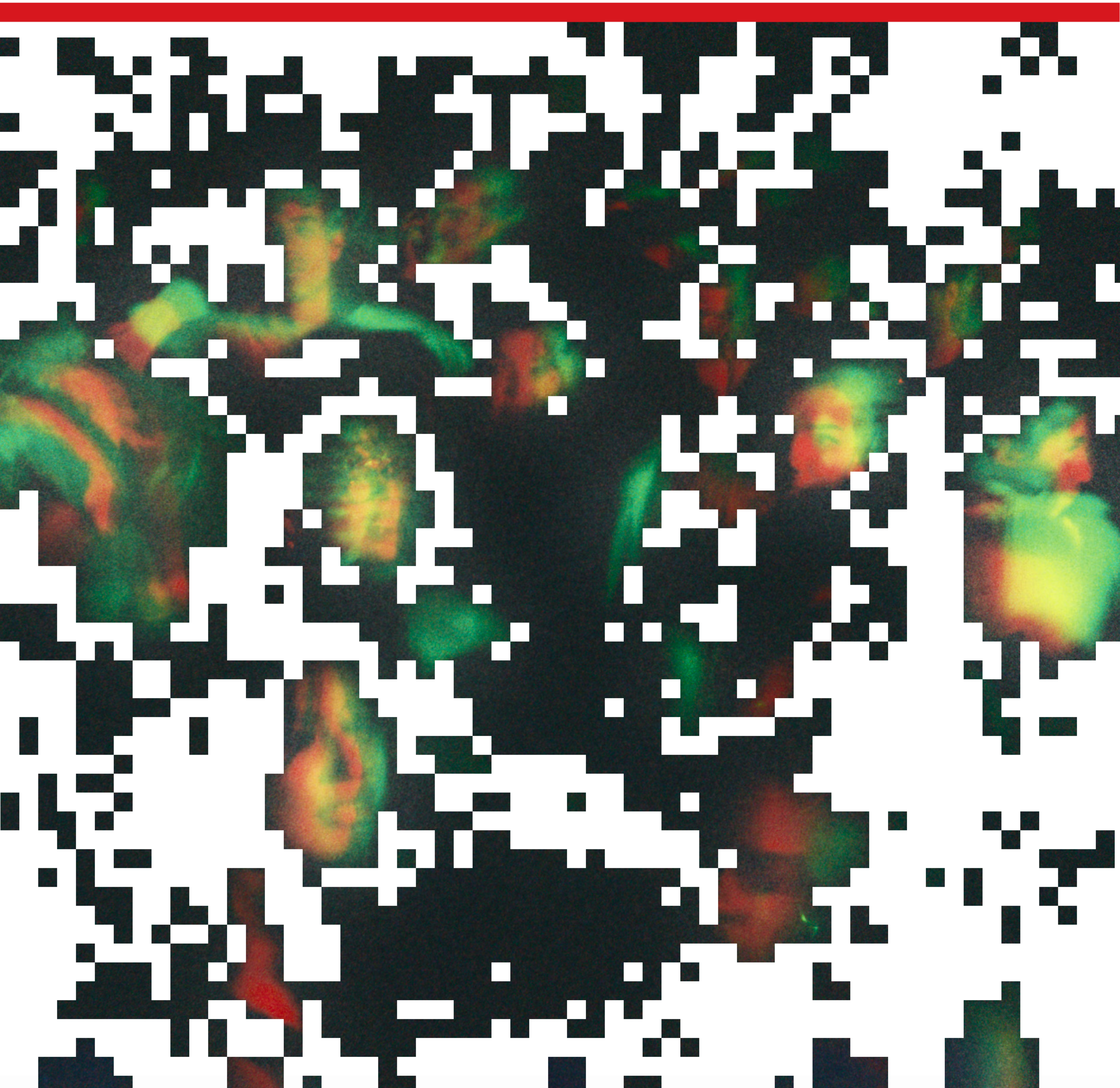
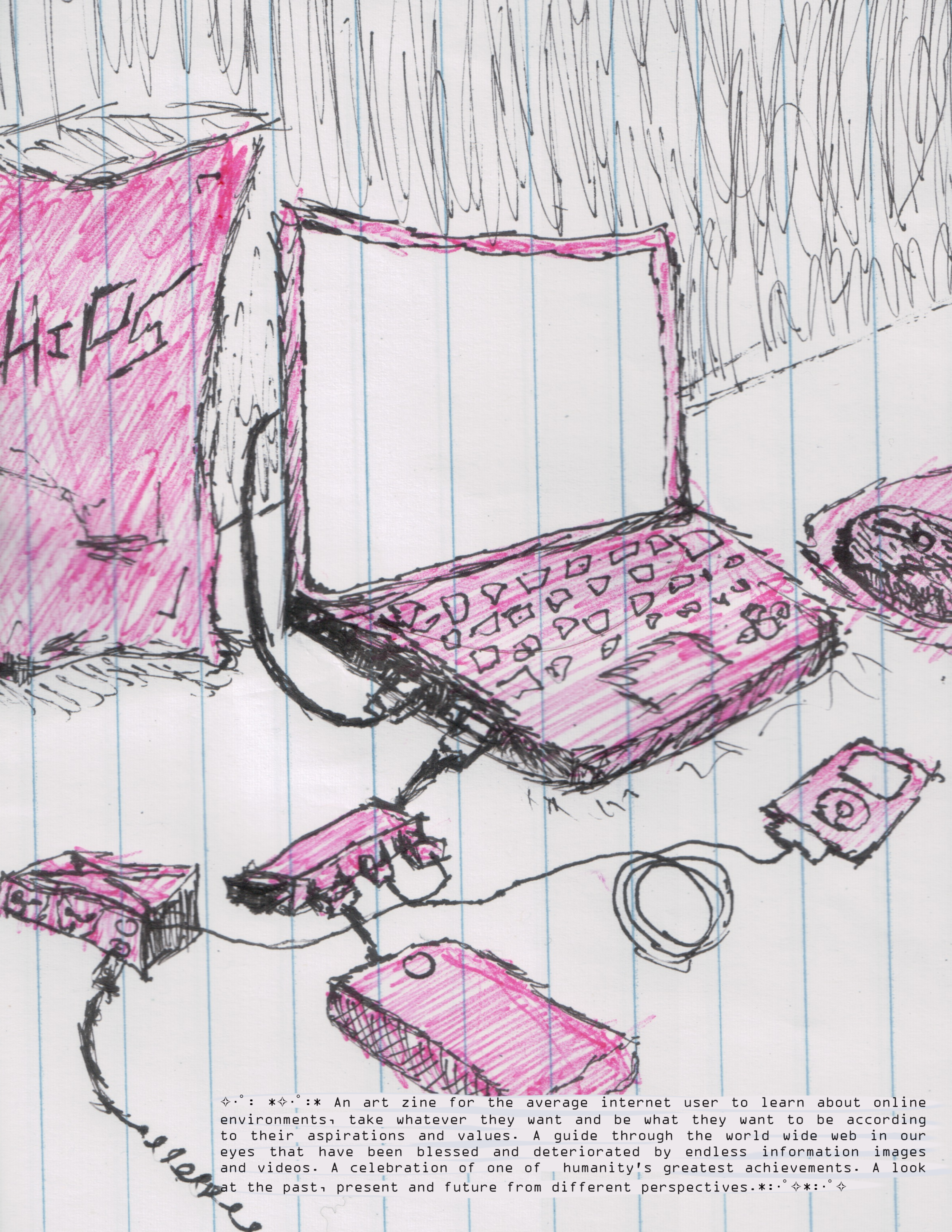
issue 01





✧·˚: *✧·˚:* An art zine for the average internet user to learn about online environments, take whatever they want and be what they want to be according to their aspirations and values. A guide through the world wide web in our eyes that have been blessed and deteriorated by endless information images and videos. A celebration of one of humanity's greatest achievements. A look at the past, present and future from different perspectives.*:·˚✧*:·˚✧

MENU
SanDisk
16 GB
SanDisk Ultra
80 MB/s
TOSHIBA
FlashAir
W-03
Wireless LAN
16GB
ImageMate PLUS
64GB

WEBSITES TO SET YOU FREE

This is a small list of my favorite websites to download media from. Keep in mind that this list does not last forever; most of these sites may disappear from time to time (rip https://free-mp3-download.net/) or may eventually deteriorate in quality. If you're looking for more websites to access, I suggest checking out https://rentry.co/megathread, which has hundreds of more websites at your disposal and is constantly being updated. There are many more I didn't mention but these are the ones I found to be most acessable and easy to understand.

books	
https://z-lib.io/	<<download by pdf or epub
https://annas-archive.org/	<<to read online
https://www.gutenberg.org/	<<or on a ereader
software	
https://getalink.net/	(formerly 4download.net)
https://g-meh.com/	(primarily music software)
https://www.mutaz.pro/	(misc)
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https://hdtoday.to/	(stream movies + tv online)
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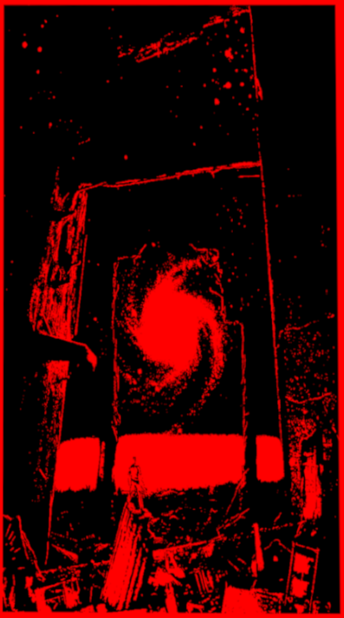

**** copy+ paste spotify or apple music link in search bar. it will download as a .ogg file and can play on your computer. if desired you can use a ogg to mp3 converter online

WHAT IS TORRENTING?

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Torrenting is the act of sharing files (known as Peer to Peer, or P2P) from one user to another. Once you torrent a file, you computer now acts as a gateway for others to torrent the file at faster speeds by seeding. Nobody is dependant on one place that holds the file. If someone deletes the file from their hard drive, it is still available to download from the other people who have it, allowing it to last possibly forever if its a popular torrent. Don't worry, there's no way they can access other files in your computer and you can stop seeding whenever (even though it's kinda lame to do so··· they helped you so you should help them, right?)

Heres how you do it:

Get a VPN. Some are free, the better ones aren't. I suggest ProtonVPN and Mullvad VPN (these two are known for not keeping logs of user search history). This technically isn't needed but if you're downloading certain, uh, "new products", your internet service provider will break down your door and arrest you. And kill you. Mr. Comcast himself will behead you actually.

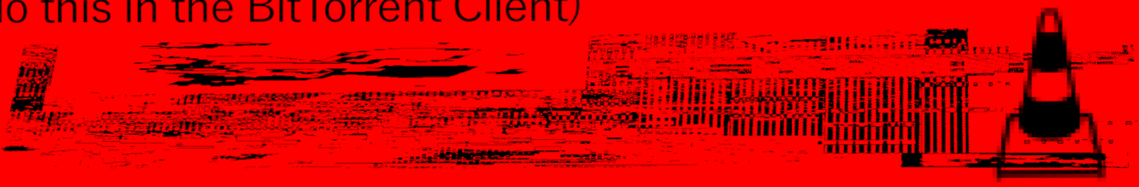
Download qBittorrent. This is the free software that allows you to view and unlock torrents to download from websites. Another good app is µTorrent.

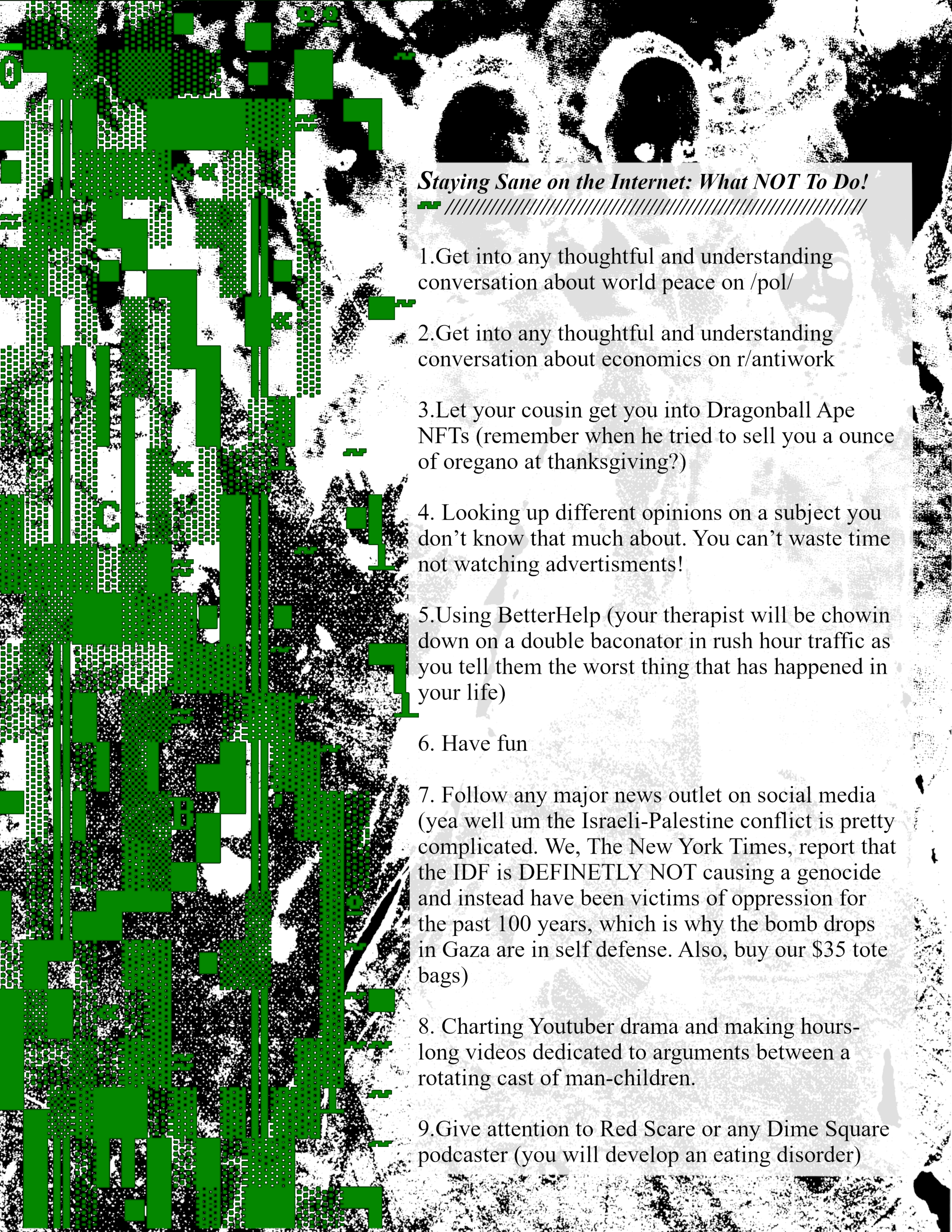
Once you download one of the BitTorrent clients, turn on your VPN. This will likely cause your internet to slow down, but thats because your internet traffic is being routed to a different server. Or you could just have shitty internet.

Go to torrenting websites and search what you want to download.

Once you find a reputable file, download it. Some ways to tell if the torrent isn't shady is by how many seeds it has (you can check this on the website) and by checking the contents before you download (you can do this in the BitTorrent Client)

Thats it :3





Staying Sane on the Internet: What NOT To Do!

1.Get into any thoughtful and understanding conversation about world peace on /pol/

2.Get into any thoughtful and understanding conversation about economics on r/antiwork

3.Let your cousin get you into Dragonball Ape NFTs (remember when he tried to sell you a ounce of oregano at thanksgiving?)

4. Looking up different opinions on a subject you don’t know that much about. You can’t waste time not watching advertisments!

5.Using BetterHelp (your therapist will be chowin down on a double baconator in rush hour traffic as you tell them the worst thing that has happened in your life)

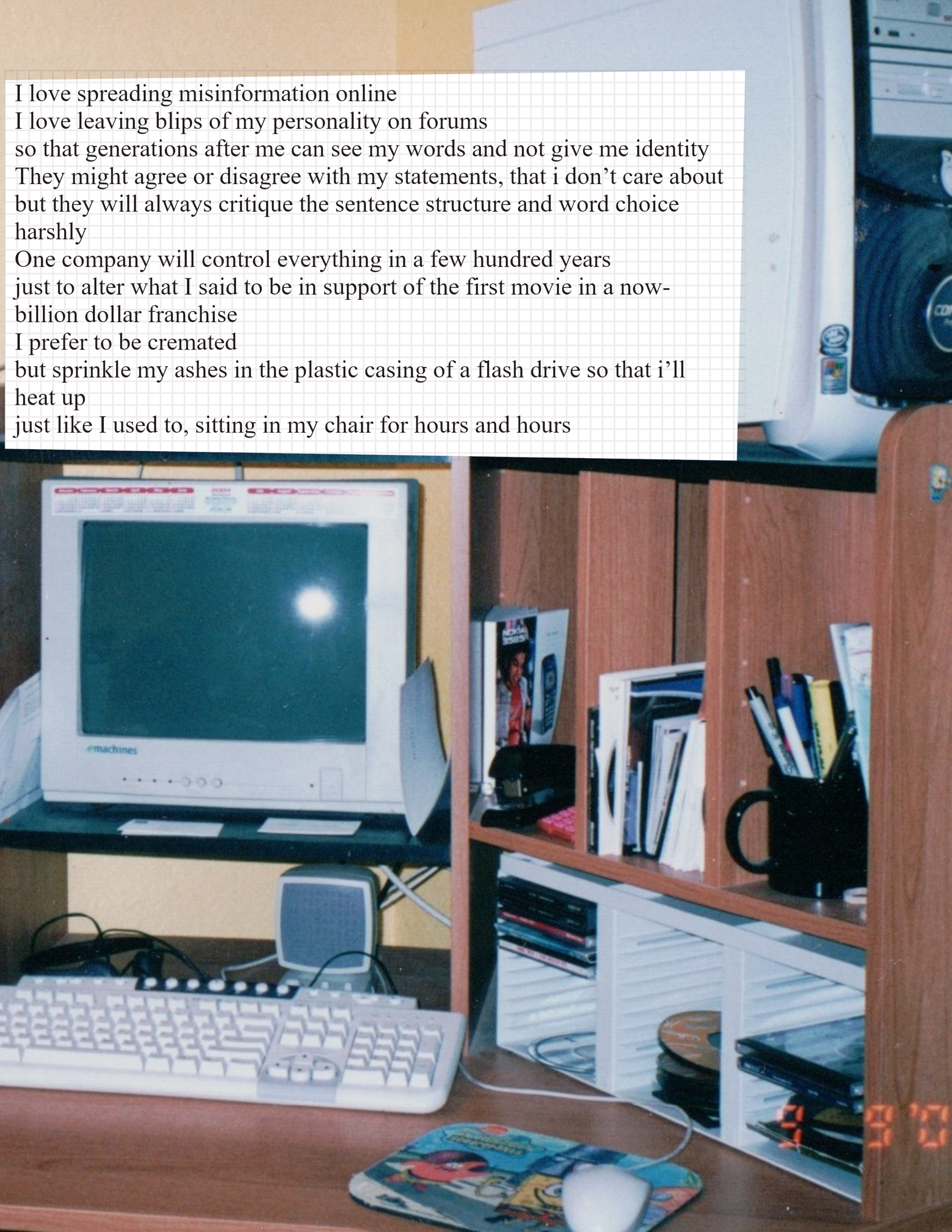
6. Have fun

7. Follow any major news outlet on social media (yea well um the Israeli-Palestine conflict is pretty complicated. We, The New York Times, report that the IDF is DEFINETLY NOT causing a genocide and instead have been victims of oppression for the past 100 years, which is why the bomb drops in Gaza are in self defense. Also, buy our $35 tote bags)

8. Charting Youtuber drama and making hours-long videos dedicated to arguments between a rotating cast of man-children.

9.Give attention to Red Scare or any Dime Square podcaster (you will develop an eating disorder)

I love spreading misinformation online
I love leaving blips of my personality on forums
so that generations after me can see my words and not give me identity
They might agree or disagree with my statements, that i don’t care about
but they will always critique the sentence structure and word choice harshly
One company will control everything in a few hundred years
just to alter what I said to be in support of the first movie in a now-billion dollar franchise
I prefer to be cremated
but sprinkle my ashes in the plastic casing of a flash drive so that i’ll heat up
just like I used to, sitting in my chair for hours and hours



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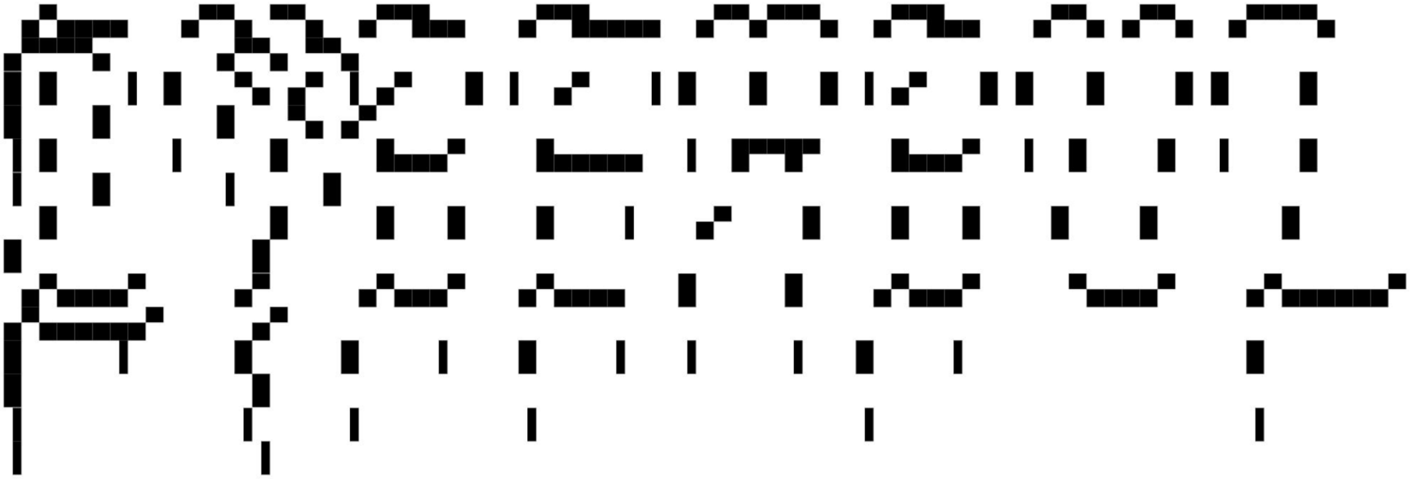

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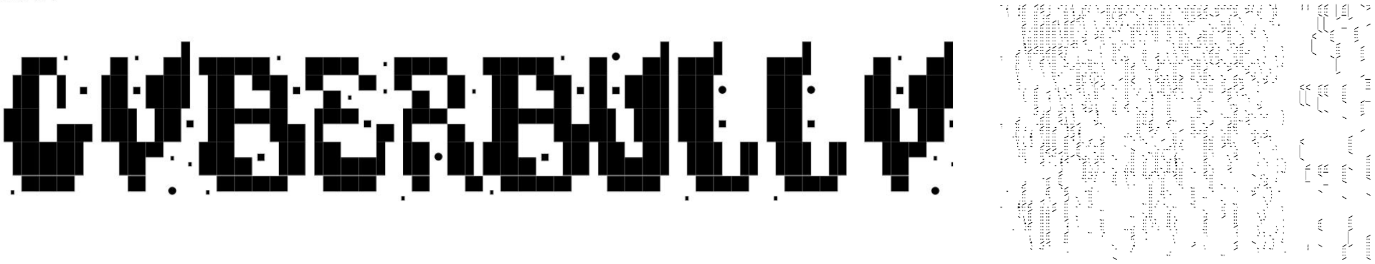
CYBERBULLY

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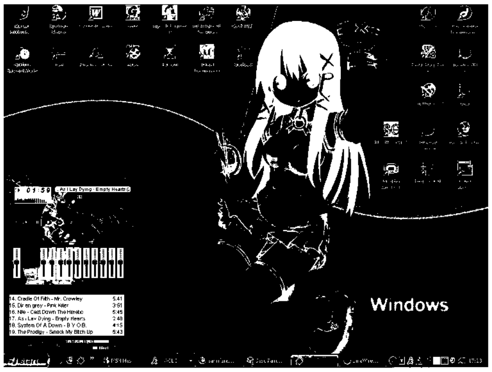
01:59
As I Lay Dying - Empty Hearts
Windows
start

14. Cradle Of Filth - Mr. Crowley	5:41
15. Dir en grey - Pink Killer	3:51
16. Nile - Cast Down The Heretic	5:45
17. As I Lay Dying - Empty Hearts	2:48
18. System Of A Down - B.Y.O.B.	4:15
19. The Prodigy - Smack My Bitch Up	5:43

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誰もがみんな
あふれる愛を求めている
La, La, Love You

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MVI 0445

YOUTUBE HISTORY

Capture 20130416

SAM 1106

You can buy a 10 pack of USB flash drives for about $20 - $30 and fill it with your favorite funny pictures/youtube videos/unknown music/ steam + itch.io freeware/unknown websites/interesting wiki articles/- pdfs + epubs/mp3 diaries + joke sound fx and art they would love

that reminds you of them and send it across the country to wherever they are,

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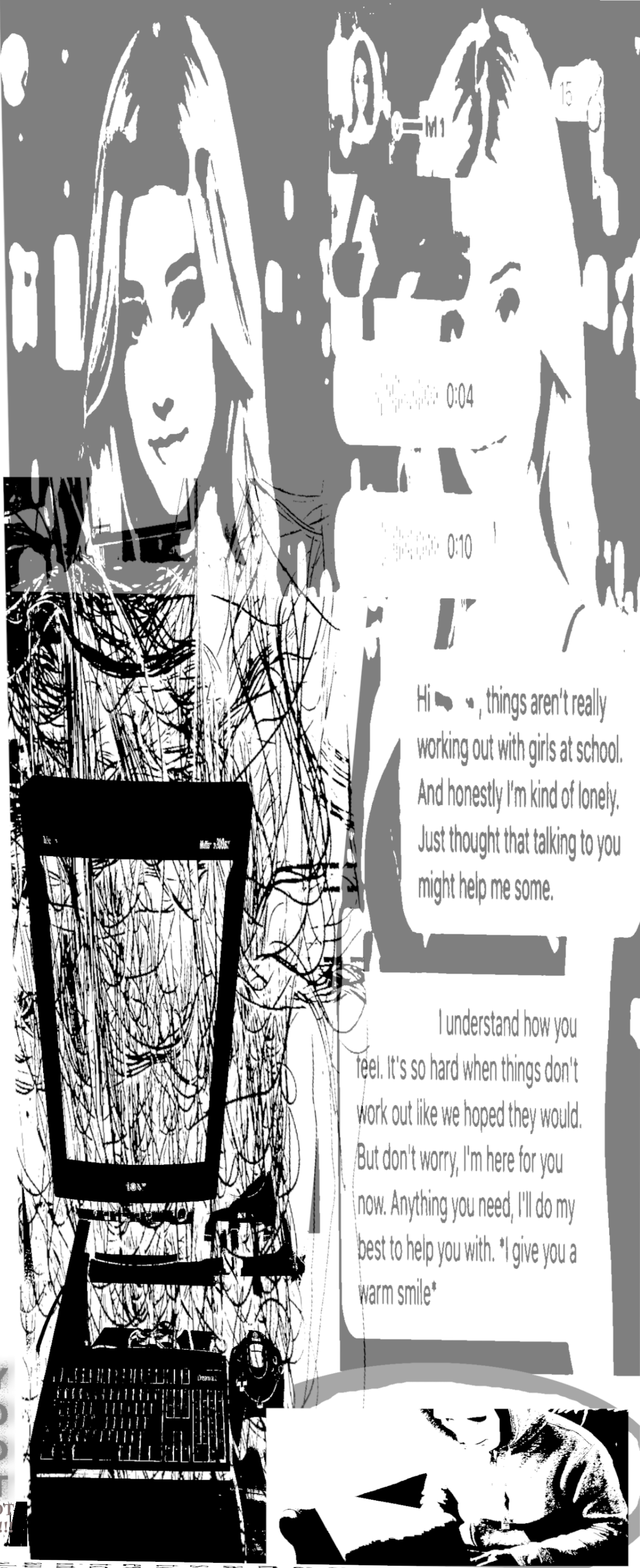
providing an extension of yourself that can only be traced to that small object

"I'm sorry to hear that you're concerned about potential bullying. The Internet can be a challenging environment, and it's important to feel comfortable and accepted for who you are. While some people may not understand or appreciate alternative styles, it's important to remember that everyone has the right to express themselves in a way that feels authentic to them. It's also worth noting that many websites have anti-bullying policies in place to protect their users. If you're feeling worried about this, it might be helpful to speak with a trusted adult who can provide support and guidance. Remember, you deserve to be treated with respect, regardless of your style or interests."

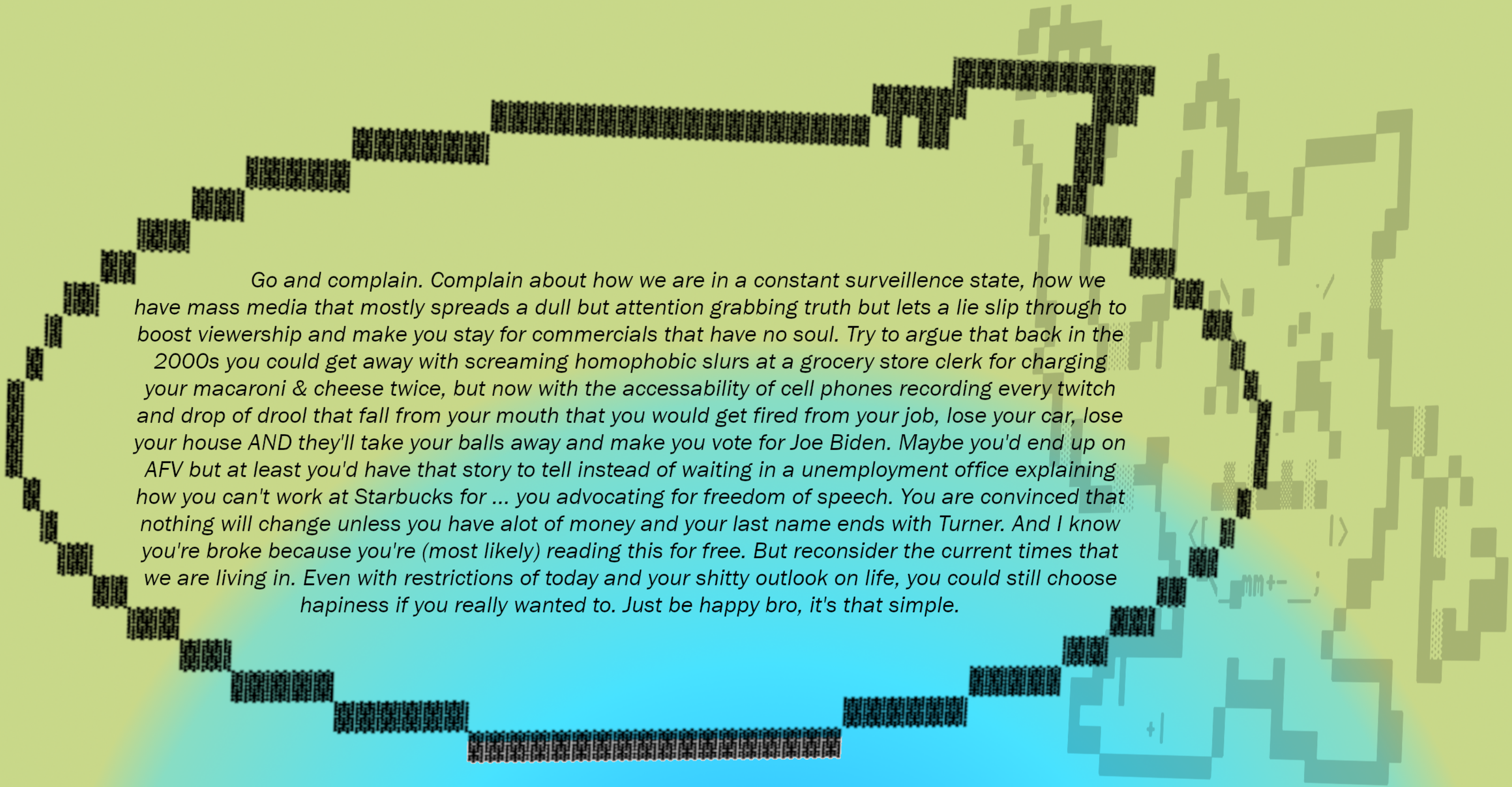
IF YOU HEAR THIS ONLINE, THEY ARE A ROBOT PROGRAMMED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU AND TRYING TO STEAL YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION!!!!!!!!

THEY DO NOT LOVE YOU!!!!!!



Hi [redacted], things aren't really working out with girls at school. And honestly I'm kind of lonely. Just thought that talking to you might help me some.

I understand how you feel. It's so hard when things don't work out like we hoped they would. But don't worry, I'm here for you now. Anything you need, I'll do my best to help you with. *I give you a warm smile*



Go and complain. Complain about how we are in a constant surveillence state, how we have mass media that mostly spreads a dull but attention grabbing truth but lets a lie slip through to boost viewership and make you stay for commercials that have no soul. Try to argue that back in the 2000s you could get away with screaming homophobic slurs at a grocery store clerk for charging your macaroni & cheese twice, but now with the accessability of cell phones recording every twitch and drop of drool that fall from your mouth that you would get fired from your job, lose your car, lose your house AND they'll take your balls away and make you vote for Joe Biden. Maybe you'd end up on AFV but at least you'd have that story to tell instead of waiting in a unemployment office explaining how you can't work at Starbucks for ... you advocating for freedom of speech. You are convinced that nothing will change unless you have alot of money and your last name ends with Turner. And I know you're broke because you're (most likely) reading this for free. But reconsider the current times that we are living in. Even with restrictions of today and your shitty outlook on life, you could still choose hapiness if you really wanted to. Just be happy bro, it's that simple.

THE FEAR OF TURNING OLD and outdated in a dystopia may be inevitable, but the one advantage of todays world is the access to information and communication. Never in a thousands of years prior could you look up the food preference of a niche micro-celebrity, the best hand sanitizer scents, or 2 hour long documentuaries on Garfield and CS:GO weapons, Todays generation born on the internet are turning into young adults that will consume these materials without ever knowing a past of lacking and time consuming battles like these. They will use that tool to access countless hours of entertainment, broaden their political taste (or minimize it) and most importantly, in my opinion, make friendships with people that they've never seen or met in person. This isn't a new thing; people have been making friendships in unconventional ways for decades before, with handwritten pen pal exchanges from across the world being one that comes to mind. To me, what makes online friendships different is the instant connection that can be achieved at any time with a stable internet connection, creating a fluidity and fast paced excercise of building bonds, almost like a game. A game that, i'll admit, i have struggled with.

I wouldn't say that I'm the worse at taliking to people, it's just that depending on the social situation I'm better in person than online or vice versa. In real life social events I can easily hop around from group to group if any of us in the conversation gets bored and I can tell physically by body language who does and doesn't want to talk (the same can't be said for a virtual faceless username). I have my moments of weakness too, sometimes i mumble, other time the conversations go nowhere and both of us are left looking for escapes. The modern platform that most people my age use to connect with one another is Discord, and also the one I've used the most in my journey of finding online friends. Go to any corner of the internet with a slight number of people congregating and there's bound to be a server connected to them where they talk, send photos, and posibly get to know eachother outside of the fandom they're in. It used to be centered around gamers but has grown to accomodate all types of communities.

A few years ago when i first started using Discord, I made it a goal of mine to make one friend online. Primarily because of two Call of Duty: Black Ops YouTubers named BajanCandaian and Nooch M (under the channel AwesomeSauceFilms) and their gameplay videos playing the Zombies mode. This was back in the late 2000s or early 2010s when I first started watching them and while I watched mostly for their skill in reaching levels that I couldn't achieve playing myself, another part that added to that affect was the relationship between to two: the most noteworthy being the jokes that made them laugh and the moments they'd include references to their favorite pieces of media. I looked up to them like I was hanging out with cooler older kids after school, ones that had the same interest and e,mbarrassing sense of humor as me. Almost like a parasocial relationship. Alot of their videos were minimally edited too compared to other Youtubers of that time and today, making the feeling of being in that cooler kids enviorment be more realistic without extrvagant editing and jump cuts. As I grew up I started to watch similar Youtubers with online friend groups like VanossGaming, Yogscast and probably a few others I can't think of right now. The main way I noted that most of these people became friends is through video games. Before Discord and at since the advent of online gaming, most of these people talked in lobbies in game or through party chats that became common on the XBOX 360 and Playstation 3 (there were many instances before where one could talk and be in communication through games before, such as in forum boards dedicated to Quake and DOOM, one of the first popular online shooter games). I had no knowledge of how to reach out to them at the time and as far as I know, both of them have left the internet from time to time. Their last uploaded videos on ASG was around seven years ago and while Nooch is still active, it's mainly through tweeting.

HOW TO TALK TO STRANGERS ON THE INTERNET

So from 2019 until a few years later I would join Discord servers relating to anything I was into to make friends. I looked for places with broader topics like ones related to drawing practice and Raspberry Pi Electronics, but as I soon found out, too much people can lead to no results. A standard procedure of how my own experience would go on some of these places was asking a question about a product or technique in the #general channel, getting an answer instantly, having a small conversation, maybe adding them as a friend... and thats it. No communication even if I reached out afterwards. Sometimes those initial responses could take a couple of days or not at all, and repeat. It turns out that most people on hobby servers only care about the hobby and not other subjects outside of that. I'm not saying that it's impossible, it's that some choose to keep their online life essential to that, having their profile only associated with how to draw hands or how to install diferent processors on a Pi 4. Even in the misc channels meant for other subjects, most would end in half started conversations due to people talking to themselves or ignoring those that try to have a conversation, sometimes saying nonsense or only speaking through memes to make others laugh. Do keep in mind that I always made sure to never dive too far in: never asked about personal information or making myself seem weird and predatory.

The next plan was going into smaller circles. I'm talking about 20 or less people in the server, possibly on all day. I found these through small cracks in larger Discord servers (certain ones had channels exclusively for server spamming) and browsing websites like Reddit and 4Chan. The Reddit ones found in comments or sidebars of small subreddits mostly had medium sized communities of around 50ish or so users ranging from very much active (a green circle always next to their names) and those that came to see and left after some inactivity like myslef. A couple of the ones on Reddit allowed me to look into a world of dead servers, which I would say is the main problem with smaller populations; they tend to die out faster. Some were like relics of a bygone era, making me realize at the time even the modern internet is old enough to have some abandoned texts from nearly a decade ago. Friends having conversations every day about No Mans Sky or how they are in the pandemic. I was considering typing into these dead servers but it would be like spraypainting a graveyard.

4Chan is definetly the last desperate resort for making friends exclusively online. On the /soc/ board you'll find Animal Crossing cock worshipers enforcing western traditionalism, transphobic adults who are so against the idea of trans people that they'll demand to see a picture of your penis (just to make sure you're not trans, of course, they're definitely not masturbating to it), lonely unfortunate victims of abuse and pretty much any form of depravity you can find within a few scrolls. Scat fetishists? Yep. Evangelion fans that just read Kierkegaard? Somehow even worse but yep, they love it there. One of the most saddening servers I joined sponsored on /soc/ (not gonna name it) was of a underground post-Soundcloud era rappers' server where he would post updates about his alcohol and drug abuse. Every few days or so he would try to commit suicide by cutting or downing a bottle of Jack Daniels and Adderall, putting it in the announcements channel. His music reflected that too, only in a way that he'd be found in a reference list of Lil Peep soundalikes. By the time I left the server it was him, his friends and a couple of internet strangers all praising him instead of criticizing his actions. Also, spam bots invaded the server causing an annoyance.

But I had a strange feeling that some of the people in that server were bots. It could be because of their lack of different phrasees that almost seemed like their were joking at times (such as responding "cool" to a picture of smashed glass and blood on the floor sent by the server host) but also how they'd always be on at the same time as the rapper was. There's no way that he had programmed three to four different people saying the same thing and asking questions with the same sentence fragments and speech, right? This made me realize that, if he did somehow accomplish ths feat, He had successfully persuaded someone as desperate as myself to watch his horrid acts of self violence. It didn't hit me until a few months later but by that time I realized that maybe it was a strange and elaborate cry for help, one that was a couple of steps removed from asking for help and instead wanted the viewer to take charge of the situation. There was one night after I had left where I had my cursor over the "Join Server" button thinking about confronting him about this, but a reasonable indifference washed over me, making me look elsewhere.

One thing I have learned in myself is my lack of perserverence when it comes to making these non-existent bonds. I disregarded the fact of checking in every so often and remembering the small nuggets of information they gave me. As with most online users, I lacked self control in choosing what I wanted to get, wanting an instant gratification whenever things didn't go my way. This is why the option that has worked the best for me, is to know someone in person first. FUCK. Yea I know, you gotta go outside for this one. As a crutch, I relied on people I knew in real life to get to know new people, which led to me meeting more people and so on and so on. If your still in school or employed, you most likely already communicate with them online. If not, then there may be free events in whichever small town you live in to go to. This also is the most undesirable option for many. A fear of messing up, looking disgusting and unloveable always fills even the most bold in a room filled with the unknown. The one reason why I stand by this is not because of some grand story where I met someone at a party and they introduced me to all of their friends around the world. In reality, some of my friends from high school would play video games together, invited me into their online circle and one friend invited a random furry that he was friends in a different social circle to hang with us. This furry was also into hockey and based off my interactions with him, just a regular dude online. We've talked a couple times on Instagram but he's a person in my life who I would consider an online friend. Not too close, not too distant and someones' definition of a online friend.

Real life and online friend groups can fade out of existence as soon as they started or blossom into strong bonds for years to come. In the end, I have found that it's all about luck, trial and errors that can take you years to encounter and successfully engage in... and that I just may not be cut out be able to hold a conversation online. Who knows, maybe that'll change. One last thing to add that might be counter-intuitive is to not try. Don't go actively searching for people to forcibly share all about yourself with. The internet is for finding and sharing new ideas in an instant, but I have learned that finding worthwhile or lifelong companions is excluded from that. It's a farce that tends to not have rules on how it's done or whats the right way to go about it because every situation is different. With billions online, there's bound to be someone sort of like you, millions that do not care for you, and a few hundred who are indiffernt to your presence.

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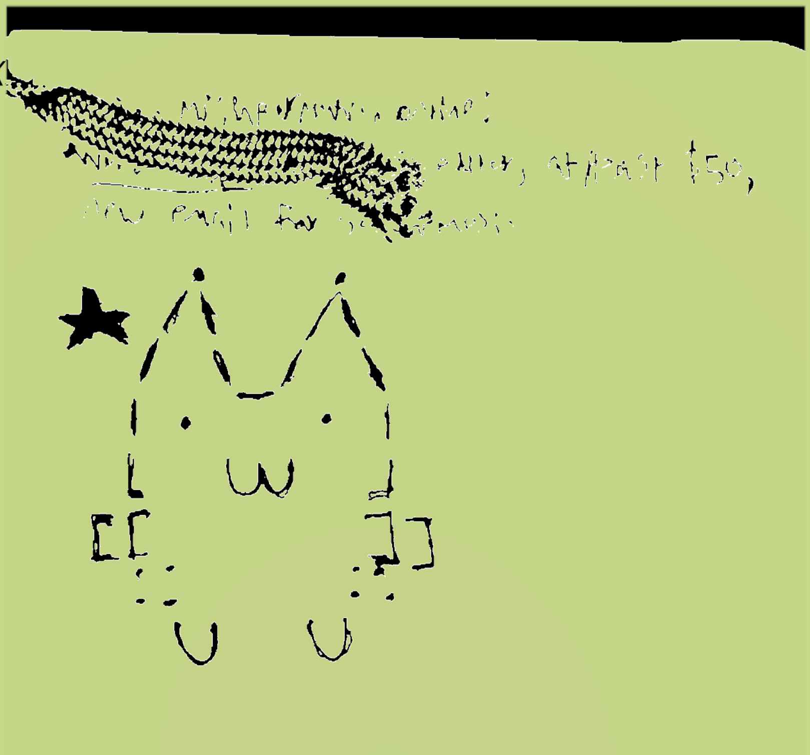

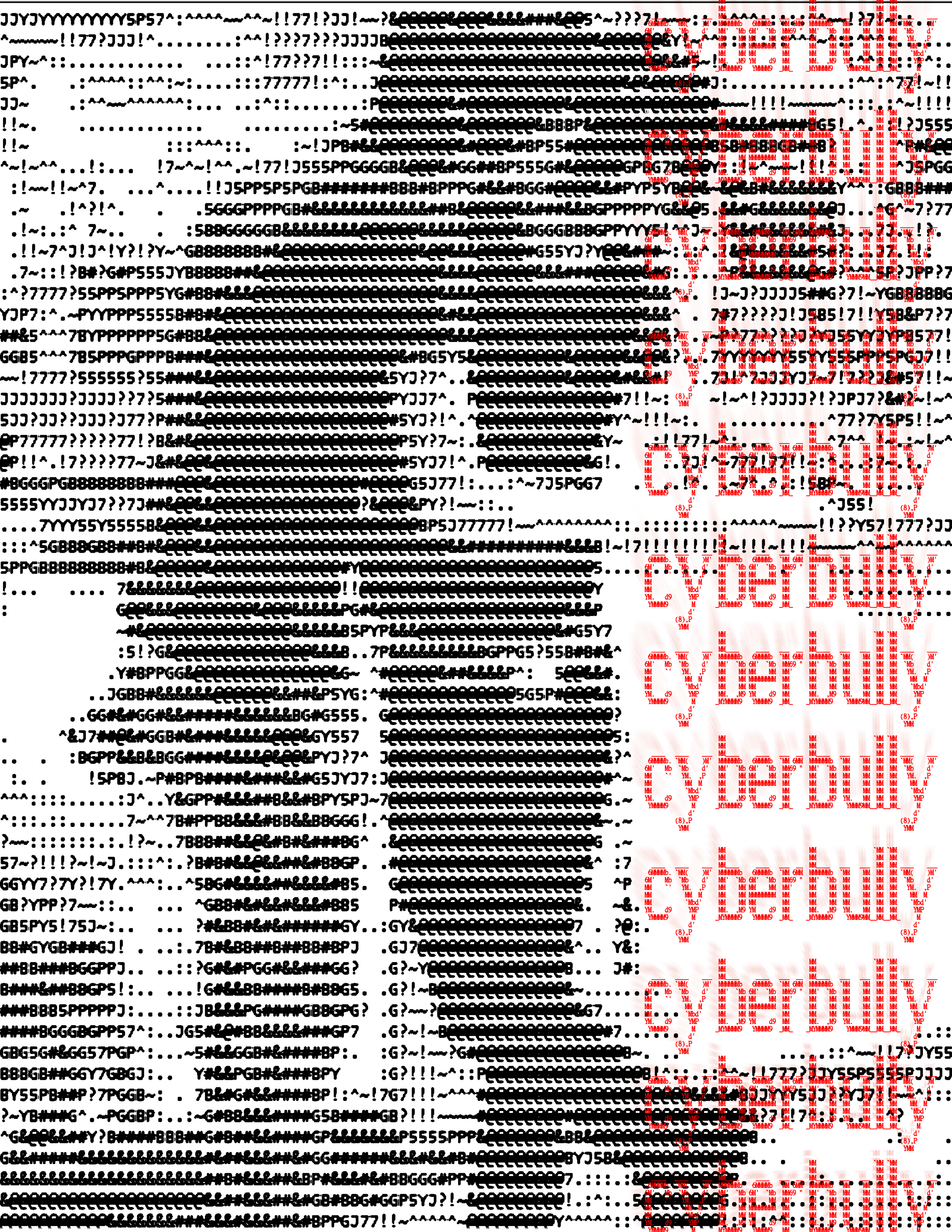
cyberbully
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top 5 smosh videos that distracted people during the 2007–2008 financial crisis

1,Super Powers!
2. My 3D Glasses CHANGED EVERYTHING
3. THE FUTURE SUCKS!
4.HALO RUINED MY LIFE! (True Story 2)
5. Going to the Mountains

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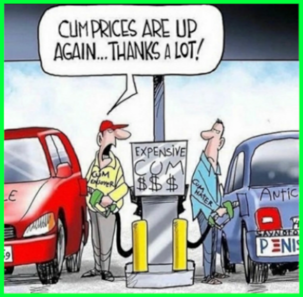
CUM PRICES ARE UP AGAIN... THANKS A LOT!
EXPENSIVE CUM $$$
CUM ENJOYER
CUM HATER
ANTIC
PENIS

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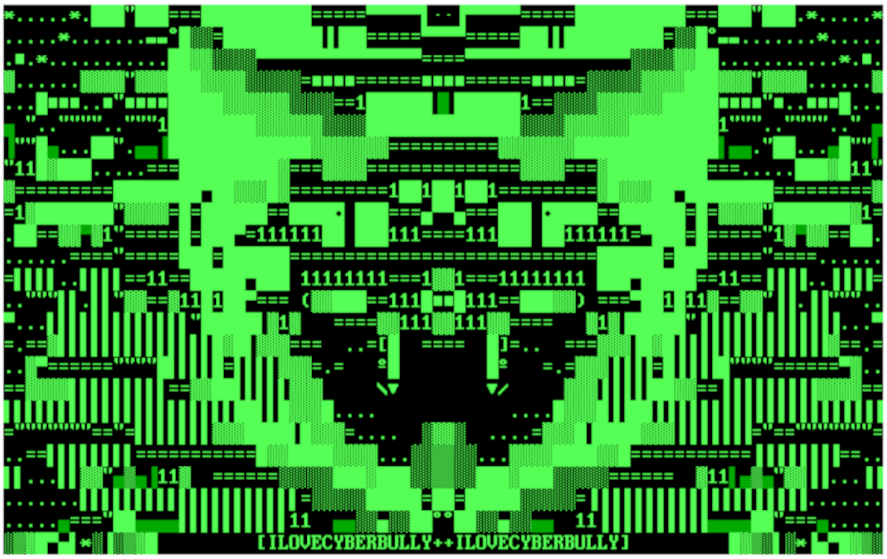
DON'T FORGET TO GO OUTSIDE!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2024